

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 01430 290826Z

21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ST-01 ISO-00 /010 W
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R 281738Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3744

UNCLAS BAMA KO 1430

FOR AF/EX

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASUP, AFSP, ML
SUBJ: VEHICLE DISPOSAL

REF: STATE 92639

1. APPRECIATE TIMELY ADVICE CONTAINED REFTTEL. BAMA KO DOES HAVE ONE VEHICLE AUTHORIZED FOR DISPOSAL WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN SOLD. THIS VEHICLE, HOWEVER, STILL RUNS. OUR PROBLEM IS THAT TWO OTHER AUTHORIZED, NEWER VEHICLES IN THE MOTORPOOL DO NOT RUN AT ALL. THE DCM'S OFFICIAL CAR, A 1972 CHEVROLET, REQUIRES REPAIRS TO THE ENGINE AND TRANSMISSION WHICH NOBODY IN MALI IS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING. WE ESTIMATE PARTS ALONG WOULD COST \$900. THE MARINES' NEW DODGE SPORTSVAN BROKE DOWN AFTER 5,800 MILES AND WE HAVE WAITED SIX MONTHS FOR THE PARTS WE THINK WE NEED.

2. THE EMBASSY MECHANIC IS SERIOUS AND HARD-WORKING, BUT HE HAS BEEN TRAINED ON FRENCH MODELS AND LAND ROVERS. THE CHARGE (LINCOLN-MERCURY MECHANIC VINTAGE 1953-55) HAS PORED OVER SHOP MANUALS AND PARTS LIST WITH HIM, BUT WE ARE NOT SURE THAT WE HAVE ORDERED THE RIGHT PARTS.

3. THE BASIC CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM IS THE USG POLICY WHICH REQUIRES US TO PROCURE CARS WHICH CANNOT BE SERVICED IN THIS COUNTRY. A SOLUTION
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WOULD BE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TO PROCURE

FOREIGN VEHICLES. (AID HAS SUCH AUTHORIZATION.)
THERE ARE SPARE PARTS FOR FRENCH CARS IN BAMAKO
AND TRAINED MECHANICS AS WELL. REPAIRS CAN BE
HANDLED IN A FEW HOURS.

4. SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF THE ADMIN OFFICER, AND
HIS TDY REPLACEMENT, IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO
RESEARCH PAST EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR AUTHORIZATION
TO PURCHASE FOREIGN MAKES. IF WE HAVE NEGLECTED
PROPER PROCEDURES, PLEASE ADVISE. AF/EX MIGHT ALSO
WISH TO CHECK WITH AMBASSADOR MCGUIRE, AT THE MALI
DESK, SINCE HE CAN DETAIL THE PROBLEMS POSED BY
PROCUREMENT OF US CARS IN BAMAKO.
DAWKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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